



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Media contact: Eileen Force
(414) 286-8504

Mayor Tom Barrett today released the following statement after the Milwaukee Police Association announced their “compromise” on changing the state law that requires the City to pay fired police officers charged with crimes:

“At a time when I’ve been doing everything in my power to add more officers to the Police Department, it is beyond me why anyone would want to continue to pay thousands and thousands of dollars to ex-cops who have been charged with crimes. Crimes that include such serious misdemeanor charges as: battery, domestic violence, hit and run and sexual assault.

No public official should seek to condone this type of behavior, especially from those who are sworn to serve and protect. This has cost taxpayers millions of dollars and it is time to stop the practice once and for all.

Additionally, the idea that disciplinary issues should be heard by an arbitrator rather than the Fire and Police Commission runs counter to my plan to strengthen the Commission and its oversight authority and responsibility under state statutes. Citizens want increased accountability and more effective oversight.

I will continue to work with the MPA, the Legislature and the Council to bring about an end to this egregious practice and protect the City’s residents and taxpayers.”